CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (previously presented) An apparatus for forming a refractory lining of a metallurgical vessel, the apparatus having an exterior dimension and comprising:
   a) a plurality of struts defining an exterior perimeter, where at least one strut is an adjustable strut comprising a first rib adapted to move relative to a second rib along a first axis;
   b) a plurality of panels covering at least a portion of the exterior perimeter, thereby defining the exterior dimension, the panels comprising at least two adjustable panels capable of relative movement as the first and second ribs of the adjustable strut are adjusted.
2. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the apparatus comprises a plurality of adjustable struts.
3. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the second rib comprises a substantial mirror image of the first rib.
4. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least one adjustable connector joins the first and second ribs of the adjustable strut.
5. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a plurality of connectors joins the first and second ribs of the adjustable strut.
6. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a plurality of braces connects the struts, the struts and braces forming a substructure[[;]].
7. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least one brace includes an adjustable brace, whereby the exterior dimension of the apparatus may be changed along a second axis.
8. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein a plurality of braces comprise adjustable braces.
9. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the connector comprises a mechanical fastener selected from the group consisting of a bolt, pin, screw, rivet, tack weld, and adhesive.
10. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein at least a portion of the first and second ribs form an overlap area and the mechanical fastener joins the overlap area.

11. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein overlap area defines a hole in both the first rib and the second rib, the holes capable of being aligned, and the mechanical fastener comprising a bolt that passes through the aligned holes, thereby fixedly securing the ribs together.
12. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein at least one hole is an elongated oval.
13. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein an intersection of two panels forms an overlapping joint.
14. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the overlapping joint slants so as to avoid obstructions during removal of the apparatus from the vessel.
15. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus includes a bottom panel secured to a bottom of the apparatus.
16. (previously presented) An adjustable form for placing a refractory lining of a metallurgical vessel, the form having two ends, a length, a width, and comprising:
    a) a plurality of adjustable struts along the length, each strut comprising a connector slidably joining a first rib and a second rib of the strut, the struts defining an exterior perimeter;
    b) a plurality of side panels spanning the length; and
    c) at least two overlapping end panels at each end and spanning the width at each end, the end panels adapted to slide past each other as the exterior perimeter changes.
17. (currently amended) The adjustable form of claim 16, wherein a plurality of braces is oriented substantially parallel along the length and the braces join the struts[[;]].
18. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the form includes at least one adjustable brace, whereby the length of the apparatus may be changed.
19. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the side panels overlap and are adapted to slide past each other as the length changes.
20. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the overlapping side panels form a joint adapted to avoid obstructions as the apparatus is removed from a vessel.
21. (cancelled)
22. (cancelled)
23. (cancelled)